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7	UNITED STATES I	DISTRICT COURT			
8	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA				
9	February 2000 Grand Jury				
10	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	Criminal Case No.			
11	Plaintiff,	) <u>INDICTMENT</u>			
12	v.	Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 371 - Conspiracy;			
13	KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS (1), KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS (2),	Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 371 - Conspiracy; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec 1341 - Mail Fraud; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 1343 - Wire Fraud; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec 1512 - Tampering with a			
14	STEPHEN H. SMITH (3),	) Witness; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 1956(h) - Money			
15	PATRICIA MORENO SMITH (4), PAUL F. SCHEIBE (5), LAWRENCE W. TAGGART (6)	Laundering Conspiracy; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 371 - Income Tax Conspiracy; Title 26			
16	LAWRENCE W. TAGGART (6), GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III (7), RICHARD G. BOYER (8).	U.S.C., Sec. 7201 - Income Tax Evasion; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 2 - Aiding and Abetting; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 982 and Title 21,			
17	Defendants.	U.S.C., Sec. 853 - Criminal Forfeiture			
18	Defendants.				
19	The grand jury charges:				
20	ALLEGATIONS COMM	ION TO ALL COUNTS			
21	1. At all times material to this Indictment, defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS was				
22	the controlling owner and operator of: Basic Research Corporation (hereinafter "BRC"), a California				
23	corporation; Advanced Technologies International, Ltd. (hereinafter "ATI"), a Bahamian corporation;				
24	and Aegean Management Services, a California corporation.				
25	2. At all times material to this Indictment, BRC and ATI were in the business of soliciting				
26	investments from members of the public ostensibly for the development and promotion of the				
27	allegedly innovative technologies attributed to defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH ("the Smith				
28	Technologies").				
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- 3. Beginning in 1997, Aegean Management Services purportedly provided business support services to BRC and/or ATI.
- 4. At all times material to this Indictment, defendant PAUL F. SCHEIBE was the controlling owner and operator of Inplant Pallet Corporation, a California corporation, and of Britton Capital Corporation, a California corporation, and was a solicitor of investments from members of the public for the ostensible purpose of developing the Smith Technologies.
- 5. Defendants LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III, and RICHARD G. BOYER were, at various times material to this Indictment, directors, officers, employees, and/or agents of BRC and ATI who solicited investments from members of the public for the ostensible purpose of developing the Smith Technologies.
- 6. At all times material to this Indictment, the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") was the agency of the United States Department of the Treasury responsible for administering and enforcing the tax laws of the United States.

#### Count 1

# **CONSPIRACY**

- 1. Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury, and continuing to and including October 17, 2000, in the Southern District of California, and elsewhere, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III, and RICHARD G. BOYER, did knowingly conspire and agree with each other, and with others known and unknown to the grand jury, to commit offenses against the United States, that is violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341 (Mail Fraud), and violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343 (Wire Fraud).
- 2. It was part of the conspiracy that defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III, and RICHARD G. BOYER devised a scheme to defraud in which it was reasonably foreseeable that mail and wire communications would be used to further the scheme, and to carry out the scheme, they:

- (a) induced persons to invest money by materially false, fraudulent, and misleading representations that investor funds would be used for business purposes in the development and promotion of the Smith Technologies;
- (b) secretly transferred the ownership of the Smith Technologies from BRC to ATI and other entities:
- (c) transferred the ownership of the Smith Technologies from BRC to ATI and other entities without documented financial consideration;
- (d) obtained investor money through BRC promissory notes signed and guaranteed by defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, and GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III;
- (e) obtained investor money through ATI Revenue Sharing and Equity Participation Agreements;
- (f) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS was the controlling owner and operator of BRC, ATI, and Aegean Management Services;
- (g) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS had been permanently enjoined from selling unregistered securities and from committing fraud in the sale of securities by a United States District Court Order filed on May 4, 1979, in a case brought by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission;
- (h) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS had been convicted on October 26, 1984, of the federal felony offense of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and to commit securities fraud, and of the federal felony offense of tax evasion;
- (i) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that defendant PAUL F. SCHEIBE had been convicted on May 8, 1984, of the federal felony offense of selling unregistered securities;
- (j) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that the defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS and PAUL F. SCHEIBE controlled the disbursement of investor funds raised for the development of the Smith Technologies;

- (k) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that more than \$2 million of investor funds raised for the development of the Smith Technologies through notes signed by defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, and/or GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III could not be accounted for;
- (l) obtained approximately \$12 million from investors on the basis of the foregoing false representations and concealments, and others;
- (m) created sham loan transactions between and among BRC, ATI, Aegean Management Services, and defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, and LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, and falsified loan documentation to conceal the conversion of investor funds to the defendants' personal use;
- (n) converted millions of dollars of investor money to the defendants' personal use and benefit; and
- (o) concealed from the IRS the conversion of investor money to the defendants' personal use and benefit.

#### **OVERT ACTS**

In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its objects, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of California, and elsewhere.

- 1. On or about August 28, 1992, defendant PAUL F. SCHEIBE solicited an investment of \$50,000 from Benson Roe.
- 2. On or about July 22, 1994, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART caused articles of incorporation to be filed for BRC in the state of California.
- 3. On or about July 27, 1994, defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH signed an assignment of his ideas/inventions to BRC in exchange for 20% of BRC's common stock.
- 4. On or about July 27, 1994, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART signed the Smith assignment as "President" of BRC.
- 5. On or about August 31, 1994, defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS caused a certificate of incorporation for ATI to be filed in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

- 6. On or about December 20, 1994, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART opened a business checking account for BRC at Bank of America, and identified himself on the bank's forms as "President and Secretary" of BRC.
- 7. On or about October 25, 1995, defendant PAUL F. SCHEIBE sent a letter to Benson and Jane Roe, on Inplant Pallet Corporation stationery, discussing their investment in BRC.
- 8. On or about December 14, 1995, defendant PAUL F. SCHEIBE sent a letter to Benson and Jane Roe, on Britton Capital Corporation stationery, acknowledging their additional investment in BRC.
- On or about April 1, 1996, defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS made defendant GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III president of BRC and moved defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART to vice-president of the company.
- 10. On or about July 26, 1996, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, PAUL F. SCHEIBE (as guarantors), and GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III (as President, BRC) signed a BRC promissory note reflecting an investment of \$30,000 by Randy Kohls.
- 11. On or about December 5, 1996, defendant GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III signed and delivered BRC promotional material for Franne Ficara and Steve Wall.
- 12. On or about June 26, 1997, defendant GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III initiated the BRC "Lender Enhancement Program."
- 13. On or about September 26, 1997, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART deposited ATI investor funds (from Renwick Capital) into his attorney-client trust account at Wells Fargo Bank.
- 14. On or about October 5, 1997, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART caused articles of incorporation to be filed for Aegean Management Services in the state of California.
- 15. On or about December 5, 1997, defendant RICHARD G. BOYER solicited from Ronald and Annette Larson an investment of \$1.2 million in the Smith Technologies through ATI.
- 16. On or about January 15, 1998, defendant GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III sent a "Project Update" letter to BRC investors stating that the "communications technology" had been assigned by BRC to ATI.

- 17. On or about March 24, 1998, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, and LAWRENCE W. TAGGART signed an agreement "releasing" SCHEIBE from any financial liability for investor funds raised for the development of the Smith Technologies.
- 18. On or about March 31, 1998, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS (as guarantor) and GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III (as President, BRC) signed a BRC promissory note reflecting an investment of \$27,500 by G. William Abrell.
- 19. On or about July 23, 1998, defendant PAUL F. SCHEIBE delivered \$17,500 in cash to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, who directed an employee to deposit the cash into a personal bank account of HRONOPOULOS.
- 20. On or about July 23, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check on his attorney-client trust account payable to defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH in the amount of \$150,000.00.
- 21. On or about October 17, 2000, defendant RICHARD G. BOYER caused the preparation and filing of false federal income tax returns for Aegean Management Services for the years 1997, 1998, and 1999.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

# Counts 2-14

#### MAIL FRAUD

1. Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury, and continuing to and including October 17, 2000, in the Southern District of California and elsewhere, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III, and RICHARD G. BOYER did knowingly devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises.

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- 2. It was part of this scheme to defraud and to obtain money and property by materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises that defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III, and RICHARD G. BOYER:
- (a) induced persons to invest money by materially false, fraudulent, and misleading representations that investor funds would be used for business purposes in the development and promotion of the Smith Technologies;
- (b) secretly transferred the ownership of the Smith Technologies from BRC to ATI and other entities;
- (c) transferred the ownership of the Smith Technologies from BRC to ATI and other entities without documented financial consideration;
- (d) obtained investor money through BRC promissory notes signed and guaranteed by defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, and GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III;
- (e) obtained investor money through ATI Revenue Sharing and Equity Participation Agreements;
- (f) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS was the controlling owner and operator of BRC, ATI, and Aegean Management Services;
- (g) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS had been permanently enjoined from selling unregistered securities and from committing fraud in the sale of securities by a United States District Court Order filed on May 4, 1979, in a case brought by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission;
- (h) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS had been convicted on October 26, 1984, of the federal felony offense of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and to commit securities fraud, and of the federal felony offense of tax evasion;

- (i) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that defendant PAUL F. SCHEIBE had been convicted on May 8, 1984, of the federal felony offense of selling unregistered securities;
- (j) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS and PAUL F. SCHEIBE controlled the disbursement of investor funds raised for the development of the Smith Technologies;
- (k) intentionally concealed from investors the fact that more than \$2 million of investor funds raised for the development of the Smith Technologies through notes signed by defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, and/or GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III could not be accounted for;
- (l) obtained approximately \$12 million from investors on the basis of the foregoing false representations and concealments, and others;
- (m) created sham loan transactions between and among BRC, ATI, Aegean Management Services, and defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, and LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, and falsified loan documentation to conceal the conversion of investor funds to the defendants' personal use;
- (n) converted millions of dollars of investor money to the defendants' personal use and benefit; and
- (o) concealed from the IRS the conversion of investor money to the defendants' personal use and benefit.
- 3. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Southern District of California, and elsewhere, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III, and RICHARD G. BOYER, for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the aforementioned scheme to defraud and to obtain money and property by false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, did cause to be placed in a United States post office or other authorized depository for mail matter, items to be delivered by the United States Postal Service according to the directions thereon, as set forth below:

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	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SENDER</u>	<u>ADDRESSEE</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
2	2	07/26/96	Randy A. Kohls	BRC	Letter re promissory note
4	3	12/12/96	Gilbert N. Holloway/BRC	Dr. and Mrs. Ben Roe, et al.	Memo re new agreements and notes
5	4	01/22/97	Gilbert N. Holloway/BRC	Robert E. Lewis	Letter re promissory note
6 7	5	06/16/97	Jon A. Hohmeister	BRC	Check in the amount of \$25,000
8	6	06/18/97	James Taylor	BRC	Check in the amount of \$25,000
9	7	06/20/97	Gilbert N. Holloway/BRC	David B. Roe	Letter re Lender Enhancement
10					Program
11 12	8	09/02/97	Gilbert N. Holloway/BRC	Boyce C. and Janet Hurlbut	Letter re Lender Enhancement Program
13 14	9	09/19/97	Jon A. Hohmeister	BRC	Letter re Lender Enhancement Program
15	10	01/05/98	Jon A. Hohmeister	BRC	Letter re promissory note
16	11	01/15/98	Gilbert N. Holloway/BRC	"Our Valued	Project Update Letter
17				Lender Support Group Members" (Dan Murphy)	
18	12	01/28/98	Robert E. Lewis	BRC	Letter re promissory
19					note
20	13	03/04/98	Lee C. and Diane Y. Holliday	BRC	Letter re promissory note
21 22	14	03/09/98	John A. and Linda D. Hohmeister	BRC	Letter re promissory note
23	All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 2.				

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# Counts 15-25

# WIRE FRAUD

- 1. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Counts 2-14 are realleged and incorporated here.
- 2. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Southern District of California, and elsewhere, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE,

LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, GILBERT N. HOLLOWAY, III, and RICHARD G. BOYER, for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the aforementioned scheme to defraud and to obtain money and property by false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, did transmit and cause to be transmitted, in interstate and foreign commerce, by means of wire, radio, and television communication, the writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds set forth below:

6	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SENDER</u>	<u>RECEIVER</u>	COMMUNICATION
7	15	09/18/96	Randy A. Kohls (Chase,	Wells Fargo Bank,	Wire transfer in the
8			NY, NY)	Acct. D0682021464 -	amount of \$30,000
9				Paul Scheibe, PSBA R&D Account	
10	16	08/11/97	Richard Mgrdechian (NY,	Nick	Basic Research
11	10	06/11/97	NY)	Hronopoulos/	Corporation
12				BRC, fax# 619-643- 9150	Preliminary Information Request
13	17	08/14/97	Gilbert Holloway/BRC	James R.	Bank wiring
14			fax# 619-643-9150	McCullough, fax# 212-644-5081	instructions
15	18	09/04/97	Rich (Boyer)/BRC	James	Amended draft,
16			fax# 619-643-9150	McCullough, fax# 212-644-	Exclusive Technology Transfer
17				5081	and Commercializing Agreement
18	19	11/12/97	Eli Mansour/BRC, fax #619-643-9152	Renwick, fax# 212-644-5081	Assignments re ATI
19			1ax #619-643-9152	212-044-3081	Communication Technology
20	20	11/19/97	Lawrence W. Taggart, fax# 619-643-9152	Richard Mrgdechian,	Memo re Investment Banking Status
21			1αλπ 019-0 <del>4</del> 3-9132	fax# 212-644- 5081	Danking Status
22	21	12/05/97	Annette G. Larson	Lawrence W.	Wire transfer in the
23	_1	12,00,5,	(Chase Manhattan Bank, NY, NY)	Taggart Trust Acct. 0764781845	amount of \$300,000
24			111,111)	Wells Fargo Bank - S.D., CA	
25	22	03/25/98	Ronald and Annette	Lawrence W.	Wire transfer in the
26			Larson (Smith Barney, Chase Manhattan Bank,	Taggart Trust Acct. 0764781845	amount of \$900,000
27			NY, NY)	Wells Fargo Bank - S.D., CA	
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1	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SENDER</u>	RECEIVER	COMMUNICATION
2	23	04/02/98	Richard Mgrdechian	Lawrence W.	Information request
3			fax# 212-644-5081	Taggart/BRC fax# 619-643- 9152	re Novitera
4				9132	
5	24	05/18/98	Dr. John Littlejohn (Royal Bank of Scotland LTD, London)	Lawrence W. Taggart Trust Acct. 0764781845	Wire transfer in the amount of \$500,000
6			London	Wells Fargo Bank - S.D., CA	
7	25	05/29/98	Dr. John Littleighn (Dayal	Lawrence W.	Wire transfer in the
8	23	03/29/98	Dr. John Littlejohn (Royal Bank of Scotland LTD, (London)	Taggart Trust Acct. 0764781845	amount of \$450,000
9			(=====)	Wells Fargo Bank - S.D., CA	
10				, -	
11	All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 2.				
12	Counts 26				
13	WITNESS TAMPERING				

# WITNESS TAMPERING

On or about November 29, 1999, in the Southern District of California, defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS did knowingly intimidate, threaten, attempt to intimidate, and attempt to threaten Yuval Shenkal by making threats of physical and economic harm to Yuval Shenkal, with the intent to influence the testimony of Yuval Shenkal in proceedings before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California and in proceedings before a federal grand jury in the Southern District of California.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1512 and 2.

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#### Counts 27

### WITNESS TAMPERING

On or about February 9, 2000, in the Southern District of California, defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS did knowingly intimidate, threaten, attempt to intimidate, and attempt to threaten Salvador Amarillas by making threats of physical and economic harm to the family of Salvador Amarillas, with the intent to influence the testimony of Salvador Amarillas in proceedings

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before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California and in proceedings before a federal grand jury in the Southern District of California.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1512 and 2.

#### Counts 28

# MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY

- 1. Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury, and continuing to and including October 17, 2000, in the Southern District of California, and elsewhere, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, and RICHARD G. BOYER did knowingly conspire and agree with each other, and with others known and unknown to the grand jury, to violate Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956 and 1957, that is: to knowingly conduct and attempt to conduct financial transactions affecting interstate and foreign commerce which involved the proceeds of a specified unlawful activity, to wit violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 (Mail Fraud) and 1343 (Wire Fraud), with the intent to promote the carrying on of a specified unlawful activity, knowing while conducting and attempting to conduct such financial transactions that the property involved in the transactions represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity; to knowingly conduct and attempt to conduct such financial transactions with the intent to engage in conduct constituting a violation of Section 7201 of the Internal Revenue Code (Income Tax Evasion); and to knowingly engage and attempt to engage in monetary transactions, affecting interstate and foreign commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000.00 which was derived from a specified unlawful activity, to wit, violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 (Mail Fraud) and 1343 (Wire Fraud).
- 2. It was part of the conspiracy that defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, and RICHARD G. BOYER:
- transferred BRC and ATI investor funds between and among BRC, ATI, Aegean Management Services, Inplant Pallet Corp. and Britton Capital Corp., and defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, and LAWRENCE W. TAGGART for the defendants' personal benefit;

- (b) created sham loan transactions between and among BRC, ATI, Aegean Management Services, and defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, and LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, and falsified loan documentation to conceal the conversion of investor funds to the defendants' personal use;
  - (c) paid personal expenses of the defendants with BRC and ATI investor funds;
- (d) wrote checks payable to cash, drawn on BRC and ATI investor funds, to deliver cash to the defendants for their personal use; and
- (e) wrote checks payable to cash, drawn on BRC and ATI investor funds, to obtain cashier's checks negotiated for the benefit of the defendants.

#### **OVERT ACTS**

In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its objects, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of California, and elsewhere.

- On or about September 29, 1997, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check on his attorney-client trust account, payable to cash, which was converted into a cashier's check (number 0721020233) in the amount of \$51,116.00 and was applied to the down payment on the residence of Sherry L. and defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART at 19 Lake Helix Drive, La Mesa, California.
- 2. On or about December 26, 1997, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check on his attorney-client trust account, payable to Beaudry RV, in the amount of \$40,000.00, which was applied to the down payment on a motor home provided to defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH.
- 3. On or about January 15, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check on the Aegean Management Services account, payable to Saturn of Kearny Mesa, in the amount of \$15,591.57, which was applied to the purchase of a new Saturn automobile at the direction of defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS.

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- 4. On or about January 15, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check on his attorney-client trust account, payable to cash, which was converted into a cashier's check (number 0721020993) in the amount of \$82,127.49 and was applied as the final payment on a motor home provided to defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH.
- 5. On or about January 21, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check on his attorney-client trust account, payable to cash, which was converted into a cashier's check (number 0721021041) in the amount of \$18,036.28, payable to Kearny Mesa Ford, which was applied to the purchase of a new Ford Mustang automobile at the direction of defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS.
- 6. On or about April 17, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check on his attorney-client trust account, payable to cash, which was converted into a cashier's check (number 0721250195) in the amount of \$200,000.00 payable to First American Title Ins. Co., and was applied to the down payment on the residence of Kirsten K. and defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS at 7462 Vista Rancho Court, Rancho Santa Fe, California.
- 7. On or about May 20, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check on his attorney-client trust account, payable to cash, which was converted into a cashier's check (number 0721021778) in the amount of \$12,000.00, payable to Bob Baker Cadillac, which was applied to the purchase of a new Cadillac Seville automobile at the direction of the defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS.
- 8. On or about July 23, 1998, defendant PAUL F. SCHEIBE delivered \$17,500 in cash to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, who directed an employee to deposit the cash into a personal bank account of KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS.
- 9. On or about July 23, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check on his attorney-client trust account, payable to defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH, in the amount of \$150,000.00, which together with a check written by STEPHEN H. SMITH to cash, was converted into a cashier's check (number 0721250312) in the amount of \$160,000.00 payable

to Pickford Realty, Inc., and applied to the down payment on the residence of Patricia M. and STEPHEN H. SMITH at 177 Phoebe Street, Encinitas, California.

10. On or about October 17, 2000, defendant RICHARD G. BOYER caused the preparation and filing of false, federal corporate income tax returns for Aegean Management Services for the years 1997, 1998, and 1999.

All in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1956(h).

#### Counts 29

# **INCOME TAX CONSPIRACY**

Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury, and continuing to and including October 17, 2000, in the Southern District of California, and elsewhere, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PATRICIA MORENO SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, and RICHARD G. BOYER knowingly conspired to defraud the United States for the purpose of impeding, impairing, obstructing, and defeating the lawful functions of the Internal Revenue Service in the ascertainment, computation, assessment, and collection of income taxes, by deceitful and dishonest means.

It was part of the conspiracy that defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PATRICIA MORENO SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, and RICHARD G. BOYER:

- (a) transferred BRC and ATI investor funds between and among BRC, ATI, Aegean Management Services, Inplant Pallet Corp. and Britton Capital Corp., and defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PATRICIA MORENO SMITH, and LAWRENCE W. TAGGART for the defendants' personal benefit;
- (b) created sham loan transactions between and among BRC, ATI, Aegean Management Services, and defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, and LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, and falsified loan documentation to conceal the conversion of investor funds to the defendants' personal use;
  - (c) paid personal expenses of the defendants with BRC and ATI investor funds;

- 4. On or about April 15, 1997, defendant PATRICIA MORENO SMITH filed a false federal income tax return which omitted her portion of the income of her husband, defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH.
- 5. On or about October 14, 1997, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART caused articles of incorporation to be filed for Aegean Management Services in the state of California.
- 6. On or about December 10, 1997, defendant PATRICIA MORENO SMITH opened a Union Bank of California account in the name of "De La Patty."
- 7. On or about December 24, 1997, defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS directed defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART to write a check (number 358) in the amount of \$15,000.00, drawn on TAGGART'S attorney-client trust account, payable to Tiina Bathurst.
- 8. On or about December 26, 1997, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check (number 362) on his attorney-client trust account, payable to Beaudry RV, in the amount of \$40,000.00, which was applied to the down payment on a motor home provided to defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH.
- 9. On or about January 15, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check (number 405) on his attorney-client trust account, payable to cash, which was converted into a cashier's check (number 0721020993) in the amount of \$82,127.49 and was applied as the final payment on a motor home provided to defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH.
- 10. On or about January 20, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check (number 417) on his attorney-client trust account, payable to cash, which was converted into a cashier's check (number 0721021030) payable to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, in the amount of \$20,000.00.
- 11. On or about April 15, 1998, defendants STEPHEN H. SMITH and PATRICIA MORENO SMITH filed a false, federal individual income tax return which omitted the income of STEPHEN H. SMITH.
- 12. On or about April 17, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check (number 121) on his attorney-client trust account, payable to cash, which was converted into a cashier's check (number 0721250195) in the amount of \$200,000.00 and was applied to the

down payment on the residence of defendants KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS and KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS at 7462 Vista Rancho Court, Rancho Santa Fe, California.

- 13. On or about April 29, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check (number 138) on his attorney-client trust account, payable to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, in the amount of \$18,125.00.
- 14. On or about July 23, 1998, defendant PAUL F. SCHEIBE delivered \$17,500 in cash to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, who directed an employee to deposit the cash into a personal bank account of KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS.
- 15. On or about July 23, 1998, defendant LAWRENCE W. TAGGART wrote a check (number 264) on his attorney-client trust account, payable to defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH, in the amount of \$150,000.00, which together with a check written by STEPHEN H. SMITH to cash, was converted into a cashier's check (number 0721250312) in the amount of \$160,000.00 and applied to the down payment on the residence of defendants PATRICIA MORENO SMITH and STEPHEN H. SMITH at 177 Phoebe Street, Encinitas, California.
- 16. On or about October 17, 2000, defendant RICHARD G. BOYER caused the preparation and filing of false, federal corporate income tax returns for Aegean Management Services for the years 1997, 1998, and 1999.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

#### Count 30

# **INCOME TAX EVASION**

During the calendar year 1995, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS and KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS, residents of San Diego County, California, had and received taxable income in the sum of approximately \$187,000.00; that upon said taxable income there was owing to the United States of America an income tax of approximately \$52,000.00; that well-knowing and believing the foregoing facts, defendants, on or about April 15, 1996, in the Southern District of California, did willfully attempt to evade and defeat the said income tax due and owing by them to the United States of America for said calendar year by failing to make an income tax return on or before

April 15, 1996, as required by law, to any proper officer of the Internal Revenue Service, and by failing to pay to the Internal Revenue Service said income tax, and by committing the following affirmative acts of evasion, among others:

- 1. On or about January 27, 1995, defendant KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS deposited a BRC check (number 87) for \$25,000.00, which was falsely recorded as an "employee advance" to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, into her personal bank account at Bank of America;
- 2. On or about November 15, 1995, Paul F. Scheibe issued a check (number 11187) for \$24,000.00 from Best Western Eagle Lodge payable to "K. Hronopoulos," which defendant KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS deposited into her personal bank account at Wells Fargo Bank;
- 3. On or about December 15, 1995, Paul F. Scheibe issued a check (number 8555) for \$29,000.00 from Britton Capital Corporation payable to "K. Hronopoulos," which defendant KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS deposited into her personal bank account at Wells Fargo Bank.;
- 4. On or about December 31, 1998, Richard G. Boyer caused BRC to write-off as uncollectible all "employee advances/loans" made to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS in 1995. All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, and Title 18, United Sates Code, Section 2.

### Count 31

#### INCOME TAX EVASION

During the calendar year 1996, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS and KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS, residents of San Diego County, California, had and received taxable income in the sum of approximately \$210,000.00; that upon said taxable income there was owing to the United States of America an income tax of approximately \$60,000.00; that well-knowing and believing the foregoing facts, defendants, on or about April 15, 1997, in the Southern District of California, did willfully attempt to evade and defeat the said income tax due and owing by them to the United States of America for said calendar year by failing to make an income tax return on or before April 15, 1997, as required by law, to any proper officer of the Internal Revenue Service, and by failing to pay to the Internal Revenue Service said income tax, and by committing the following affirmative acts of evasion, among others:

- 1. On or about March 6, 1996, defendant KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS opened a Bank of America checking account in the name Kirsten Kullberg;
- 2. On or about August 1, 1996, Paul F. Scheibe issued a check (number 3099) for \$35,000.00 from P.S.B.A, payable to "K. Hronopoulos," which defendant KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS deposited into her personal bank account at the Bank of America;
- 3. On or about September 23, 1996, Paul F. Scheibe issued a check (number 3157) for \$22,250.00 from P.S.B.A., payable to "K. Hronopoulos," which defendant KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS deposited into her personal bank account at the Bank of America;
- 4. On or about October 15, 1996, Paul F. Scheibe issued a check (number 11717) for \$7,000.00 from Best Western Eagle Lodge, payable to "Kirsten Kullberg," which defendant KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS deposited into her personal bank account at the Bank of America. All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, and Title 18, United Sates Code, Section 2.

### Count 32

# **INCOME TAX EVASION**

During the calendar year 1997, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS and KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS, residents of San Diego County, California, had and received taxable income in the sum of approximately \$325,000.00; that upon said taxable income there was owing to the United States of America an income tax of approximately \$100,000.00; that well-knowing and believing the foregoing facts, defendants, on or about April 15, 1998, in the Southern District of California, did willfully attempt to evade and defeat the said income tax due and owing by them to the United States of America for said calendar year by failing to make an income tax return on or before April 15, 1998, as required by law, to any proper officer of the Internal Revenue Service, and by failing to pay to the Internal Revenue Service said income tax, and by committing the following affirmative acts of evasion, among others:

- 1. On or about June 13, 1997, defendant KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS deposited a BRC check (number 2089) for \$14,000.00, which was falsely recorded as an "employee advance" to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, into her personal bank account at the Bank of America;
- 2. On or about October 15, 1997, Lawrence W. Taggart caused articles of incorporation to be filed for Aegean Management Services in the state of California;
- 3. On or about December 24, 1997, defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS directed Lawrence W. Taggart to write a check (number 358) for \$15,000.00, drawn on Taggart's attorney-client trust account, payable to Tiina Bathurst;
- 4. On or about December 31, 1998, Richard G. Boyer caused BRC to write-off as uncollectible all "employee advances/loans" made to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS in 1997;
- 5. On or about October 17, 2000, Richard G. Boyer caused the preparation and filing of a false, federal corporate income tax return for Aegean Management Services for tax year 1997.

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, and Title 18, United Sates Code, Section 2.

# Count 33

#### INCOME TAX EVASION

During the calendar year 1998, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS and KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS, residents of San Diego County, California, had and received taxable income in the sum of approximately \$740,000.00; that upon said taxable income there was owing to the United States of America an income tax of approximately \$265,000.00; that well-knowing and believing the foregoing facts, defendants, on or about April 15, 1999, in the Southern District of California, did willfully attempt to evade and defeat the said income tax due and owing by them to the United States of America for said calendar year by failing to make an income tax return on or before April 15, 1999, as required by law, to any proper officer of the Internal Revenue Service, and by failing to pay to the Internal Revenue Service said income tax, and by committing the following affirmative acts of evasion, among others:

- 1. On or about January 20, 1998, Lawrence W. Taggart issued a check (number 417) for \$20,000.00, drawn on Taggart's attorney-client trust account, payable to "cash" and which was converted to cashier's check # 0721021030, which was made payable to "K.N. Hronopoulos;"
- 2. On or about April 17, 1998, Lawrence W. Taggart signed a check drawn on his attorney-client trust account, payable to "cash," which was converted into a cashier's check in the amount of \$200,000.00 and was applied to the down payment on the residence of defendants KIRSTEN KULLBERG HRONOPOULOS and KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS in Rancho Santa Fe, California;
- 3. On or about April 29, 1998, Lawrence W. Taggart signed a check for \$18,125.00, drawn on Taggart's attorney-client trust account, payable to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS;
- 4. On or about July 23, 1998, Paul F. Scheibe delivered \$17,500.00 in cash to defendant KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, who directed an employee to deposit the cash into a personal bank account of KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS; and
- 5. On or about October 17, 2000, Richard G. Boyer caused the preparation and filing of a false, federal corporate income tax return for Aegean Management Services for tax year 1998.

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, and Title 18, United Sates Code, Section 2.

### Count 34

# **INCOME TAX EVASION**

During the calendar year 1995, defendants STEPHEN H. SMITH and PATRICIA MORENO SMITH, residents of San Diego County, California, had and received taxable income in the sum of approximately \$45,000.00; that upon said taxable income there was owing to the United States of America an income tax of approximately \$7,500.00; that well-knowing and believing the foregoing facts, defendants, on or about April 15, 1996, in the Southern District of California, did willfully attempt to evade and defeat the said income tax due and owing by them to the United States of America for said calendar year by failing to make an income tax return on or before April 15, 1996, as required by law, to any proper officer of the Internal Revenue Service, and by failing to pay to the

Internal Revenue Service said income tax, and by committing the following affirmative acts of evasion, among others:

- 1. On or about, August 26, 1995, Paul F. Scheibe issued a check (number 1998) from Inplant Pallet Corporation for \$5,000.00 payable to Stephen Smith, which defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH negotiated for currency;
- 2. On December 29, 1995, Paul F. Scheibe issued a check (number 5034) from Britton Capital Corporation for \$35,000.00 payable to Stephen Smith, which defendant PATRICIA MORENO SMITH deposited into the De La Patty bank account under her control at the Union Bank of California;
- 3. On or about December 31, 1998, Richard G. Boyer caused BRC to write-off as uncollectible all "employee advances/loans" made to defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH in 1995.

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, and Title 18, United Sates Code, Section 2.

### Count 35

# **INCOME TAX EVASION**

\_\_\_\_On or about April 15, 1997, in the Southern District of California, defendants STEPHEN H. SMITH and PATRICIA MORENO SMITH did willfully attempt to evade and defeat a large part of the income tax due and owing by them to the United States of America for the calendar year 1996, by preparing and causing to be prepared, a false and fraudulent U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040PC for PATRICIA MORENO SMITH, which was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, where they stated that her taxable income for said calendar year was the sum of \$12,892.00, and that the amount of the tax due and owing thereon was the sum of \$1,931.00, whereas as they then well knew and believed, their taxable income for the said calendar year was approximately \$183,000.00, and that upon said additional taxable income an income tax of approximately \$48,000.00 was due and owing to the United States of America, and by committing the following additional affirmative acts of evasion, among others:

- 1. On or about April 15, 1997, defendants STEPHEN H. SMITH and PATRICIA MORENO SMITH prepared and filed a false Form 1040PC with the Internal Revenue Service, only reporting the income the defendants ascribed to defendant PATRICIA MORENO SMITH;
- 2. On or about February 2, 1996, Paul F. Scheibe issued a check (number 5110) from Britton Capital Corporation for \$17,500.00 payable to Stephen Smith, which defendant PATRICIA MORENO SMITH deposited into her personal bank account at Union Bank of California;
- 3. On or about April 11, 1996, Paul F. Scheibe issued a check (number 3004) from P.S.B.A. for \$15,000.00 payable to Stephen Smith, which defendant PATRICIA MORENO SMITH deposited into her personal bank account at Union Bank of California;
- 4. On or about December 4, 1996, defendant PATRICIA MORENO SMITH deposited a BRC check (number 1601) for \$12,500.00, which was falsely recorded as an "employee advance" to Stephen Smith, into her personal bank account at the Union Bank of California.
- All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, and Title 18, United Sates Code, Section 2.

# Count 36

# **INCOME TAX EVASION**

On or about April 15, 1998, in the Southern District of California, defendants STEPHEN H. SMITH and PATRICIA MORENO SMITH did willfully attempt to evade and defeat a large part of the income tax due and owing by them to the United States of America for the calendar year 1997, by preparing and causing to be prepared, a false and fraudulent U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040A, which was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, where they stated that their taxable income for said calendar year was the sum of \$0, and that the amount of the tax due and owing thereon was the sum of \$0, whereas as they then well knew and believed, their taxable income for the said calendar year was approximately \$215,000.00, and that upon said additional taxable income an income tax of approximately \$60,000.00 was due and owing to the United States of America, and by committing the following additional affirmative acts of evasion, among others:

- 1. On or about April 15, 1998, defendants STEPHEN H. SMITH and PATRICIA MORENO SMITH jointly filed a false Form 1040A with the Internal Revenue Service, only reporting the income the defendants ascribed to defendant PATRICIA MORENO SMITH;
- 2. On or about October 15, 1997, Lawrence W. Taggart caused articles of incorporation to be filed for Aegean Management Services in the state of California;
- 3. On or about October 17, 2000, Richard G. Boyer caused the preparation and filing of false, federal corporate income tax return for Aegean Management Services for tax year 1997;
- 4. On or about December 10, 1997, defendant PATRICIA MORENO SMITH opened Union Bank of California checking account in the name of "De La Patty";
- 5. On or about December 26, 1997, Lawrence W. Taggart issued a check (number 362) from his attorney-client trust account in the amount of \$40,000.00 and payable to Beaudry RV for the personal benefit of defendants STEPHEN H. SMITH and PATRICIA MORENO SMITH.

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, and Title 18, United Sates Code, Section 2.

# Count 37

#### INCOME TAX EVASION

During the calendar year 1998, defendants STEPHEN H. SMITH and PATRICIA MORENO SMITH, residents of San Diego County, California, had and received taxable income in the sum of approximately \$385,000.00; that upon said taxable income there was owing to the United States of America an income tax of approximately \$125,000.00; that well-knowing and believing the foregoing facts, defendants, on or about April 15, 1999, in the Southern District of California, did willfully attempt to evade and defeat the said income tax due and owing by them to the United States of America for said calendar year by failing to make an income tax return on or before April 15, 1999, as required by law, to any proper officer of the Internal Revenue Service, and by failing to pay to the Internal Revenue Service said income tax, and by committing the following affirmative acts of evasion, among others:

1. On or about January 15, 1998, Lawrence W. Taggart issued a check (number 405) from his attorney-client trust account in the amount of \$82,127.49 and payable to cash, which was converted

to a cashier's check (number 0721020993) and made payable to Beaudry RV for the personal benefit of defendants STEPHEN H. SMITH and PATRICIA MORENO SMITH;

- 2. On or about July 23, 1998, Lawrence W. Taggart issued a check (number 264) from his attorney-client trust account in the amount of \$150,000.00 and made payable to Stephen Smith, which defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH deposited into his Wells Fargo Bank checking account;
- 3. On or about December 31, 1998, Richard G. Boyer caused BRC to write-off as uncollectible all "employee advances/loans" made to defendant STEPHEN H. SMITH in 1998;
- 4. On or about October 17, 2000, Richard G. Boyer caused the preparation and filing of a false, federal corporate income tax return for Aegean Management Services for tax year 1998.

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, and Title 18, United Sates Code, Section 2.

# Count 38

# CRIMINAL FORFEITURE

Paragraphs 1-6 of the Allegations Common to all Counts and Count 28 are realleged and incorporated here for the purpose of charging criminal forfeiture pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1).

As a result of the commission of the felony offense alleged in Count 28 of this Indictment, to wit, conducting financial transactions involving the proceeds of specified unlawful activity with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, with the intent to engage in conduct constituting a violation of Section 7201 of the Internal Revenue Code, and engaging in monetary transactions in criminally derived property that is of a value greater than \$10,000.00, defendants KOSTANENOS N. HRONOPOULOS, STEPHEN H. SMITH, PAUL F. SCHEIBE, LAWRENCE W. TAGGART, and RICHARD G. BOYER shall forfeit to the United States any and all interests each has in all property involved in such felony offenses, or any property which is traceable to such offenses, including but not limited to the property described below:

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